

Evans clinches Blues' third bonus

By MICHAEL KNOX Oxford City 0, Wycombe 3

WYCOMBE picked up their third £40 bonus of the season when they swept aside the challenge of Oxford City in the White House ground mud on Tuesday night.

The sponsors of the Isthmian League, offer this bonus every time a side wins by three clear goals, without collecting a caution in the process. A goal in injury time, by Dylan Evans clinched the money. It is ironic that two of the three bonuses have been away from home — at Enfield and now Oxford.

Because of illness and injury Wycombe were stretched to the limit of their resources on Tuesday night. In addition to their other problems, Stewart Atkins went down with influenza over the weekend, while John Maskell aggravated his back injury.

Evans came in for Atkins while the promising Way returned for his third game in goal. It was by far his best, too. He made a number of good saves and looked much more confident collecting crosses.

Mark Judd had to be brought down from Walsall, where he is on trial, to be substitute. His future is

still in doubt but until the uncertainty is ended, he will turn out for Wycombe when required.

For the first 10 minutes it looked as though Oxford would overrun the visitors. With Mark Boyland a terrier in mid-field and the front runners finding plenty of room on the flanks, the Wycombe defence looked to be stretched.

Rhythm

But the Oxford shooting did not match up to the rest of their play and Blues gradually settled into a good rhythm. With the defence looking increasingly secure — the Keith Mead, Steve Hardwick combination has yet to concede a goal — Wanderers were able to push up with increasing certainty.

Their first goal, however, owed

something to a defensive mistake. Veteran John Woodley lost the ball in the mud, Steve Long gathered and fed Terry Scott.

What happened then, illustrated what an old head Scott has on young shoulders. He looked up, saw Dave Ounsworth rushing off his line and tried a delicate 20 yard chip which the goalkeeper could only help into the net. It was almost a replica of the goal he scored against City at Lakes Park on Boxing Day.

Ounsworth looked uncertain and needed the help of two defenders to clear two headers off the line from one corner. But he had no chance with Blues' next goal — a brilliant curling effort from just outside the penalty area by Steve Long who struck the ball perfectly.

Blues created numerous chances in the second half and it was perhaps because of all this activity that Ounsworth had to retire with a thigh injury. He was replaced by full back Martin Allen who covered himself in glory — and mud — with an excellent close range save from Long.

Indeed he did pretty well and looked like keeping a clean sheet until injury time, when Evans, who had missed some easier chances, struck the third goal after good work by Mick Holfield on the left.

One unseemly aspect of the match were the aggressive tactics of the home side in the closing stages. Twice Judd, who had come on 10 minutes from the end for Long, was brought down by scything tackles by Andy Glass

and Boyland. Both players were booked by referee Mr Smith, who generally enjoyed a good match.

Oxford: D. Ounsworth (sub. A. Sninnott 62 mins); M. Allen, A. Glass, J. Woodley, N. Sargent, J. Lever, S. Massey, M. Boyland, P. Dallaway, M. Prescott, J. Thomas.

Wycombe: C. Way; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, L. Reed, S. Hardwick, D. Evans, M. Holfield, S. Long (sub. M. Judd 81 mins), H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

Referee: R. Smith (Middle Barton).

Half-time 0-2. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Scott (24 mins), Long (39), Evans (90).

BERGER Isthmian League

Premier Division

(Up to March 27)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	pts
Barking	32	19	8	5	67	45	65
Bolton	34	18	8	8	84	49	62
Enfield	22	12	5	5	53	38	58
Dulwich	32	15	11	6	54	30	56
Dagenham	30	17	5	8	59	45	56
Wycombe	32	16	7	9	48	31	55
Croydon	30	15	7	8	45	29	52
Easton	32	11	11	10	43	37	51
Leatherhead	32	14	7	11	47	32	49
Woking	32	13	10	9	62	48	48
Tooting	33	12	10	11	44	42	46
Hitchin	33	12	9	14	55	60	45
Walthamwood	35	12	9	13	50	59	44
Sutton	32	12	8	12	50	59	43
Oxford	36	12	9	17	44	65	43
Walthamstow	33	12	5	16	49	59	41
Tilbury	30	10	10	14	50	67	40
Hayes	32	6	13	13	33	46	37
Staines	31	10	12	13	33	51	31
Staines	32	5	13	14	33	51	28
Kingston	35	3	11	21	26	58	20
Leytonstone	34	4	6	24	29	67	18

Now for Dulwich

If they are to maintain their outside chance of snatching the Berger Isthmian League title, Wycombe Wanderers must win each of their remaining ten games.

The first of those ten and possibly the toughest comes tomorrow (Saturday) when they travel to face Dulwich Hamlet at Champion Hill.

Dulwich, who lost 1-0 at Lakes Park four weeks ago, are also on the fringe of the championship race after Tuesday's 2-1 defeat of Staines. Their goals came from Tony James and Ossie Bayram, who is one of the most exciting and orthodox forwards in the league.

Steve Hardwick was given a testing time in the first match but this time it will be Paul Birdseye who has the task of marking him.